

Introduced by Senator Alquist

September 1, 2009

Senate Resolution No. 29—Relative to Alzheimer’s Disease.

1 WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s disease is a slow, progressive disorder
2 of the brain that results in loss of memory and other cognitive
3 function and, eventually, death; and
4 WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s disease is the sixth leading cause of
5 death in the United States and currently affects an estimated 2.4
6 million to 4.5 million Americans; and
7 WHEREAS, In California alone, it is estimated that more than
8 588,000 people have Alzheimer’s disease, and that number is
9 expected to double by the year 2030; and
10 WHEREAS, The stigma associated with Alzheimer’s disease
11 results in a delay of diagnosis, in some cases up to six years; and
12 WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s disease takes an enormous toll on
13 family members, with an estimated one in four acting as caregivers
14 for each individual with the disease; and
15 WHEREAS, Caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease
16 suffer from increased levels of stress and depression, which can
17 create health problems that differ from those of caregivers of people
18 with other illnesses; and
19 WHEREAS, Recent advancements in scientific research have
20 demonstrated the benefits of early medical treatment for individuals
21 with Alzheimer’s disease, as well as the benefits of early access
22 to counseling and other support services for their caregivers; and
23 WHEREAS, With early diagnosis, individuals can avoid or
24 correct contributing medical problems, commence available
25 therapy, organize current and future care, and enhance

1 self-determination, and caregivers can identify and embrace
2 community support services; and

3 WHEREAS, In direct response to research breakthroughs,
4 National Memory Screening Day was established by the
5 Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) as a collaborative
6 effort with local organizations and health care professionals across
7 the country to promote awareness, early detection, and early
8 diagnosis of memory impairment so that individuals can obtain
9 proper medical treatment, social services, and other resources
10 related to their condition; and

11 WHEREAS, National Memory Screening Day is held by the
12 AFA each November in recognition of National Alzheimer's
13 Disease Awareness Month, and on this day health care
14 professionals administer free, confidential, face-to-face memory
15 screenings at hundreds of sites throughout the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, Memory screening is not used to diagnose any
17 illness, but is used as an indicator to determine whether a person
18 might benefit from further examination by a qualified health care
19 provider; and

20 WHEREAS, Memory screenings are a safe and cost-effective
21 intervention to direct at-risk individuals to appropriate clinical
22 resources, thus reducing the costs of long-term care or
23 hospitalization resulting from undiagnosed complications; and

24 WHEREAS, Screenings also greatly benefit those with normal
25 scores by checking their memory, allaying fears, and promoting
26 chronic disease prevention and successful aging; now, therefore,
27 be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
29 recognizes the seriousness of Alzheimer's disease and the toll it
30 takes on individuals with the disease and their caregivers; and

31 *Resolved*, That the Senate acknowledges that more outreach and
32 education is needed to eliminate the stigma associated with the
33 disease and assist individuals and their caregivers in identifying
34 available screenings, treatments, and support; and

35 *Resolved*, That the Senate encourages all Americans with
36 memory concerns or who want to check their memory to have
37 annual memory screenings administered at National Memory
38 Screening Day sites or by other qualified professionals; and

39 *Resolved*, That the Senate congratulates state and local
40 organizations representing individuals with memory problems,

1 caregivers, and health care professionals for their commitment to
2 improving the quality of life of individuals confronting dementia
3 and their families by providing optimal care and services; and
4 *Resolved*, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of
5 National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month and National
6 Memory Screening Day, including the development of a state
7 health policy on dementia screening and care; and
8 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
9 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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